

## The American Presidency- Study Guide Test 3

1. Identification and description of the seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth, eleventh, twelfth, and thirteenth roles established by specific American presidents.

7<sup>th</sup>— established by Andrew Jackson: representative of the people.

8<sup>th</sup>— established by Lincoln: mobilizer of the government.

9<sup>th</sup>— established by Lincoln: moral leader.

10<sup>th</sup>— established by Teddy Roosevelt: mobilizer of the people.

11<sup>th</sup>— established by Teddy Roosevelt: world leader (established by Roosevelt exercised by McKinley).

12<sup>th</sup>— established by Teddy Roosevelt: social reformer.

13<sup>th</sup>— established by Woodrow Wilson: manager of the economy.

2. Character of presidential power vis a vis congressional power during the administrations of Andrew Jackson through Andrew Johnson, Grover Cleveland, Benjamin Harrison, Williams McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, Warren Harding, Calvin Coolidge, Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan, George Bush<sup>43</sup> and Bill Clinton.

Andrew Jackson- Jackson fundamentally reordered the relationship of the president to the people. In dismissing the Whig notion that the president was merely to execute the will of the people as filtered through Congress, Jackson insisted that it was the president who was the direct representative of the people and as such spoke for people.

-He transformed the President from clerk to leader by expressing that Congress should follow the will of the people as expressed through the President.

-He also expanded the “spoils” system and the use of the presidential veto to gain power over legislature and set the national agenda on his terms. He transformed the veto power into a policy tool.

-This broadening with of the veto power opened new doors in presidential bargaining with Congress.

-He expanded the president’s removal powers when firing his Treasure Secretary without approval of Congress.

-Attached the president to the people, as wells as the Constitution.

Martin van Buren-In the aftermath of Jackson’s Presidency, Congress re-asserted power and the presidency once began to shrink.

-While Van Buren helped shape the politics of the two-party system in the U.S., he was unable to put to full presidential use, and Congress, not the president, rose to the forefront.

William Henry Harrison- Harrison was a Whig (smaller government) president who believes Congress should set the national agenda.

-Had an active campaign using parades, banners, songs, stump speeches, etc.

John Tyler- Believed was a believer in states rights and he vetoed bill after bill of the Whig Legislative agenda.

James Polk- A strong, assertive president, who explained the office and used war to expand America

- Saw the presidency as an office of force and leadership. In his first two years of office, his Democrats controlled both the House and the Senate and Polk used this to chart a bold course in Domestic Policy referred to "New Democracy."
- Expanded the Jacksonian model of the presidential power. Under his leadership began openly to coordinate the development of the federal budget.

#### Zachary Taylor

-Last true Whig President, first President to be elected with no previous political experience.

Millard Fillmore- Took office as crisis loomed over slavery.

-He was president during the "Great Guano War" and granted a compromise to acquire the bird droppings.

-He also signed the Compromise of 1850 which admitted California into union as a free state, Texas borders defined, territories of Utah and New Mexico were established, and slavery was abolished in D.C.

-Also have contained the Fugitive Slave Law

Franklin Pierce- A believer in limited government and was perceived as a "Doughface", a northerner who supported the South.

James Buchanan- A strict constitutional constructionist. He believed the president was authorized to take only the action clearly permitted by the Constitution.

-Two days after taking office, the Dred Scott case decision was announced (Blacks not U.S. citizens, must be returned to owners, and Congress could not ban slavery and Missouri Compromise of 1820 was unconstitutional).

-Also experienced a severe economic depression in 1857. In 1860, South Carolina seceded from the Union. Two weeks later, Buchanan sent a letter to Congress pleading for a compromise. Within weeks, several other southern states withdrew the Union.

Abraham Lincoln-No president more fully assumed the powers of the office than Lincoln.

-Saw the nation through Civil War, served as war president, freed the slaves, exercised extraordinary emergency powers, preserved the Union, and re-creating a sense of American nationhood.

-The Civil War forced Lincoln to change the very relationship of the presidency to the constitutional order without the consent of Congress hence expanding the scope of presidential power.

-In 1862, he signed the Emancipation Proclamation and ordered it without the consent of Congress.

- Got Congress to bend to his will and when they were unavailable he acted on the reasoning that the President had the responsibility to act even if against the law.

-The 3 cases (pg.84-86) serve as examples of Congress rationalizing the presidents emergency powers during War.

-In the aftermath of Lincoln, Congress once again re-asserted itself and shrank the presidency

Andrew Johnson- Played a pivotal role in De-Construction of the presidency but failed to successfully defend the prerogatives of the institution, and left the office vulnerable to the will of Congress.

- Congress pushed for the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution, which forbade any state to deny a citizen "due process" or "equal protection" of the law.

- Congress Radicals passed the Tenure of Office Act, which was an attempt to reclaim power possessed by the President to fire executive branch members without the consent of Congress he hired his Secretary of War Edwin Stanton.
- Congress tried to impeach Johnson, but was short one vote from the two-thirds needed to convict the president. The Presidency was severely weakened but Johnson did purchase Alaska from Russia for a cool \$7.2 million (Seward's Icebox).
- Credited for Preventing a Coup by the Radicals of Congress.

#### Grover Cleveland

-Attempted to defend authority of president against Congress and fought for tariff reform. He was the first president to use the veto power freely (holds the record).

#### Benjamin Harrison

-Harrison was in office toward the end of the era of congressional authority and let Congress dictate matters.

#### William McKinley

-Spanish American War in 1898 gave McKinley options on what to do with the Philippines, Cuba, and Puerto Rico.

-During his presidency the power of Congress declined and the executive rose.

-He enhanced presidential authority in foreign affairs.

#### Theodore Roosevelt

-He transformed the presidency into a more public office, using the "bully pulpit" to elevate the presidency to new heights, and developed a more sophisticated relationship between the president and the press.

-Exerted public policy leadership and personalized the office, linking personality to policy.

-He extended executive authority farther than any other peacetime president and asserted a claim that the president should be the nation's chief legislator. To Roosevelt, the president was not only the voice of the people, but of the legislature as well.

-He stretched the constitutional elastic further than any other president before him other than Lincoln and in doing so, invented a "new" institution.

#### Woodrow Wilson

-Wilson was a progressive reformer who used party and popular leadership to move Congress.

-In a way there are 3 Wilson presidencies: the very successful domestic reformer, the very successful wartime president during WWI, and the idealistic crusader for world peace toward the end of his presidency.

-He broke precedent by personally addressing a special session of Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> time this occurred since the presidency of John Adams. He also aggressively pursued his legislative agenda in Congress.

#### Warren Harding

-Saw his position as primarily ceremonial and did not attempt to openly lead Congress.

-Until the Nixon years, the Harding administration was seen as the most corrupt in history.